

No Shortage of Foodstuffs Likely.

The United States Department of Agriculture issued the following statement on February 17:

The 1914 wheat crop of the United States was estimated to be 891,000,000 bushels. The estimated surplus carried over from the 1913 crop was about 76,000,000 bushels. There was therefore, a total available supply of 967,000,000 bushels. As the normal annual per capita consumption of wheat in the United States is about 5.3 bushels, 520,000,000 bushels should meet our normal domestic requirements for food; in addition, 90,000,000 bushels are required annually for seeding. Six hundred and ten million bushels, therefore, should supply the normal domestic demand. This would leave a surplus of 357,000,000 bushels. Of this surplus, about 210,000,000 bushels were exported by January 30, left 147,000,000 bushels, or 40,000,000 bushels more than our average annual export for the past five years, for export between February 1 and the appearance of the new crop, or for carrying over into the next crop year. The amount is sufficient to permit the export of nearly 1,000,000 bushels a day until July 1, before which time the new crop will begin to be available. This is about the average recent exportation.

The large demand for our

wheat arises from the fact that there was an estimated world's shortage of over 400,000,000 bushels outside of the United States, from the fact that the Russian exportable surplus of 100,000,000 bushels is not available generally, and from the fact that the belligerent nations are eager to secure food supplies. If it were not for these things, we should be discussing ways and means of disposing of our tremendous surplus of food products.

As has been stated, the new American crop will begin to appear before July. The Argentine crop is now coming on the market. It is estimated that from that source there will be available 1,000,000,000 bushels. A surplus of 75,000,000 bushels or more from India will be available in May and June. The increase in the fall-sown wheat acreage of the United States in 1914 was 11.1 per cent, or over 4,000,000 acres; in the Northern Hemisphere generally the acreage of winter wheat shows an increase of from 3 to 33 per cent, as follows:

	Per cent
Denmark.....	3
Italy.....	.5
Switzerland.....	10
United Kingdom.....	10
United States.....	11
India.....	22
Canada.....	33

But suppose a shortage in wheat should develop in the next three months, what would be the

situation? There is a great surplus in other food crops in the United States, a number of which can be used as substitutes. Wheat does not constitute more than 12 per cent of the normal diet, about the same as poultry and eggs. Meat and dairy products constitute 48 per cent; fruits, nuts, sugar, fish, and other items the remaining 19 per cent. There are larger supplies of corn and other grains, meat animals, dairy products, products, potatoes, and fruit at the opening of 1915 than for many years. The most important competing products are corn and potatoes. This is shown by the fact that while the normal consumption of wheat is 5.3 bushels, in Maine it is only 4.7 bushels and in Michigan 5. In the wheat growing States, where wheat is abundant, such as Minnesota, the average is 7.2, whereas in the South, where corn is much used, the average is 4 bushels. Normally about 3 per cent of the corn crop is consumed as food. Of our total crop about 80,000,000 bushels would be used for animals. The potato production in the United States averages 3.8 bushels per capita. This year the available supply is 4.1 bushels. The average price of meat animals was 7 per cent cheaper in January than a year ago, but 2 per cent lower, the price of chickens slightly lower, of potatoes 35 per cent lower, and of apples it was 37 per cent lower.

It would seem that the United

States is not likely to be threatened with a shortage of foodstuffs.

Public Men.

Congressman Thomas W. Miller of Delaware, who is a son of the Governor of that State will be the "baby member" of the Sixty-fourth Congress. Mr. Miller has not yet reached his 28th birthday.

Victor Murdock of Kansas, who lost his seat in the House by becoming a candidate for the Senate, has been named to succeed former Senator Dixon of Montana as chairman of the National Progressive Committee.

No Southern man has filled out a term as Vice President since the day of John C. Breckinridge. Blair in 1868 and Brown in 1872, both Missourians, ran, but were defeated, as was Davis of West Virginia, who ran in 1904.

Theodore E. Burton of Ohio, who has just retired from the United States senate, plans to sail next week for a long tour of South America, New Zealand, Austria, China and Japan. The object of Mr. Burton's trip is to gather first-hand information in the countries he will visit, and if possible to promote the friendly relations between them and the United States.

Numerous Senators and Representatives who favor giving the vote to women have been engaged to speak in public during the coming summer in connection with the wide-spread cam-

paign planned by the Congressional Union of the National American Woman's Suffrage Association. Among those who are expected to be heard in various States are Senators Clapp of Minnesota, Shafroth of Colorado, Sheppard of Texas, Walsh of Montana and Borah of Idaho, and Representatives Mondell of Wyoming, Bryan of Washington, Stevens of New Mexico, Manahan of Minnesota and Hobson of Alabama, the two last-named now being numbered among the ex-congressmen.

Miss Thory Morton of Central College went to Waverly Sunday morning for a visit.

Miss Mary Malone of Central College went to Sedalia Saturday evening for a brief visit.

Prof. D. F. Conrad went to Kansas City Monday morning to spend the day on business.

Mrs. Geo. E. O'Hara of Clovis, N. M., left Monday morning for Richards, Kansas, after a visit here with the family of J. O. Lesueur.

Miss Helen Whittaker returned to her home in Bunceton Monday after a visit here with Dr. and Mrs. A. E. Rogers.

C. A. Keith went to Warrensburg Saturday evening on business.

Mrs. Robert Wilson went to Kansas City Monday for a few days' visit.

Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Mollenkamp and little son spent Sunday in Higginsville.

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